

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /085 W

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R 081026Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, HU, EG

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PRESS ATTACK AGAINST EGYPTIANS

1. COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG JULY 29 CARRIED UNUSUALLY HARSH ARTICLE CRITICIZING EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP FOR REINTRODUCING CAPITALISM INTO DOMESTIC ECONOMY. IT WARNED "OF DANGERS OF MORE ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH IMPERIALIST CAPITALIST MONOPOLIES." AND ACCUSED EGYPTIANS OF: A) HAVING LAUNCHED "BROAD-RANGING ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN" AND; B) COZYING UP LK "REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH AMERICANS."

2. AT AUGUST 6 RECEPTION, EGYPTIAN DCM LABELED ARTICLE AN EXAMPLE OF UNRELIABILITY OF "CERTAIN FRIENDS." SOMEWHAT EMOTIONALLY, HE SAID PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE WAS "VERY UNFRIENDLY ACT" BY GOH, ADDING THAT HE CONSIDERED
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IT STRANGE IN LIGHT OF SUCCESSFUL TRIP OF FOREIGN MINISTER

PUJA TO CAIRO LAST MAY. EGYPTIAN OPINED THAT, ALTHOUGH SOVIET PRESS OCCASIONALLY PRINTS VEILED CRITICISM OF SADAT, HE WAS NOT AWARE OF AN ARTICLE AS NASTY AS ONE IN NEPSZABADSAG PUBLISHED ANYWHERE ELSE IN EASTERN EUROPE.

3. EGYPTIAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT NEITHER INTERESTS OF HUNGARIANS NOR OF SOVIETS--IF LATTER WERE REAL INSTIGATORS--ARE SERVED BY THAT KIND OF ARTICLE. HE THOUGHT CAIRO WILL SURELY TAKE SOME ACTION VIS-A-VIS GOH. WHEN Milder CRITICISM OF EGYPTIANS WAS PUBLISHED HERE LAST YEAR, HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO WAS CALLED NO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND GIVEN PROTEST NOTE. GOH LATER DELIVERED ORAL APOLOGY TO EGYPTIANS.

4. INDIAN AMBASSADOR WHO WAS PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION REMARKED THAT HUNGARIANS WERE FOOLISH TO PRINT NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE. SAID IT IS CLEAR CASE OF INTERFERENCE IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND A SIGN THAT SOVIETS CANNOT ABIDE ANY COLLABORATION WITH WEST ON PART OF "PROGRESSIVE ARAB STATES."

5. COMMENT: NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY FERENC VARNAI, AN ORTHODOX MARXIST BELIEVED TO BE CLOSE TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT. STATEMENT UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTED HSWP POLICY, ALTHOUGH IN THIS CASE IT APPEARS HUNGARIANS ARE ACTING AS SPEAR CARRIERS FOR SOVIETS.
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